

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MADRID 05599 262318Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00
PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 PM-05 NSC-05 SS-15
/065 W

-----087698 270136Z /75

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FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1159
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION NATO

UNCLAS MADRID 5599

USEEC ALSO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, SP

SUBJECT: REACTION TO SPANISH KING'S SPEECH

REF: MADRID 5558

1. THE FAVORABLE TREND OF PRESS AND POLITICAL REACTION TO
THE KING'S SPEECH (REFTEL) HAS CONTINUED. OF THE MADRID
DAILIES:

--CATHOLIC CENTRIST "YA" COMMENTED "IT WAS THE SPEECH
OF A MODERN, CONSTITUTIONAL MONARCH, AND WE RECOGNIZE IT
WITH SATISFACTION."

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--INDEPENDENT LIBERAL LEFT "EL PAIS" NOTED THAT THE
KING HAD CONVERTED HIMSELF FROM "KING OF THE 18 OF JULY "
(FRANCOISM) INTO A CONSTITUTIONAL KING: ONLY A
REFORMED CONSTITUTION WAS STILL NEEDED TO COMPLETE THE
CHANGE.

--CONSERVATIVE "ABC" WAS ALSO FAVORABLE.

2. POLITICAL REACTIONS FOLLOWED PREDICTABLE LINES.

--FOR THE UCD, PRIME MINISTER SUAREZ NATURALLY TERMED IT "EXCELLENT"..

--THE SOCIALISTS (PSOE), REFLECTING THEIR CONTINUING UNACCENTUATED REPUBLICAN SENTIMENTS, TOOK A NON-COMMITTAL APPROACH. FELIPE GONZALEZ TERMED IT A SPEECH ADEQUATE FOR THE SITUATIONS THAT WE ARE LIVING", ADDING THAT "THERE ARE POSITIVE THINGS, AND OTHERS WITH WHICH WE COULD BE IN DISAGREEMENT".

--ALIANZA POPULAR LEADER FRAGA IRIBARNE CHOSE TO ADOPT A BRITISH ATTITUDE OF "NO COMMENT" TOWARDS A "SPEECH FROM THE THRONE", BUT DID NOTE THE BEHAVIOR OF "CERTAIN DEPUTIES", MEANING THE SCANTY APPLAUSE FROM PSOE RANKS, CALLING IT "SHAMEFUL".

--FOR THE COMMUNISTS (PCE), SECGEN CARRILLO CALLED IT "A POSITIVE AND GOOD SPEECH". PARTY PRESIDENT DOLORES IBARRURI ("LA PASIONARIA") SAID "I APPLAUDED A LOT BECAUSE I LIKED SOME OF THE THINGS THAT HE SAID".

--IN SPITE OF THE KING'S SEVERAL REFERENCES TO REGIONALISM, SOME REGIONALIST LEADERS WERE CAUTIOUS IN UNCLASSIFIED

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RESPONSE. CATALAN CENTRIST JORDI PUJOL TERMED IT "TOO VAGUE" ON THE REGIONS, CLAIMING THAT THE KING HAD EXPRESSED HIMSELF BETTER ON THIS POINT ON OTHER OCCASIONS. JOAN REVENTOS OF THE CATALAN SOCIALISTS (PSC) OBSERVED THAT THE SPEECH WAS MORE THAN PURE PROTOCOL, AND NEEDED TO BE CAREFULLY STUDIED. STABLER

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